



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## VFW STATE CONFERENCE

Veterans from across the state attended the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual South Dakota VFW and Auxiliary Convention in Mitchell last weekend.

Members in attendance conducted organizational business, discussed legislative issues, and elected leadership.

SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock provided an SDDVA update and briefed the veterans on the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery, the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, Fallen Hero Bridge dedications, SDDVA legislative issues, and more.



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SDDVA Veterans Service Officer Shannon Phillips manned an outreach booth for the conference. Lisa Woepel, admissions coordinator for the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home briefed the veterans on the admissions procedures at the Home.

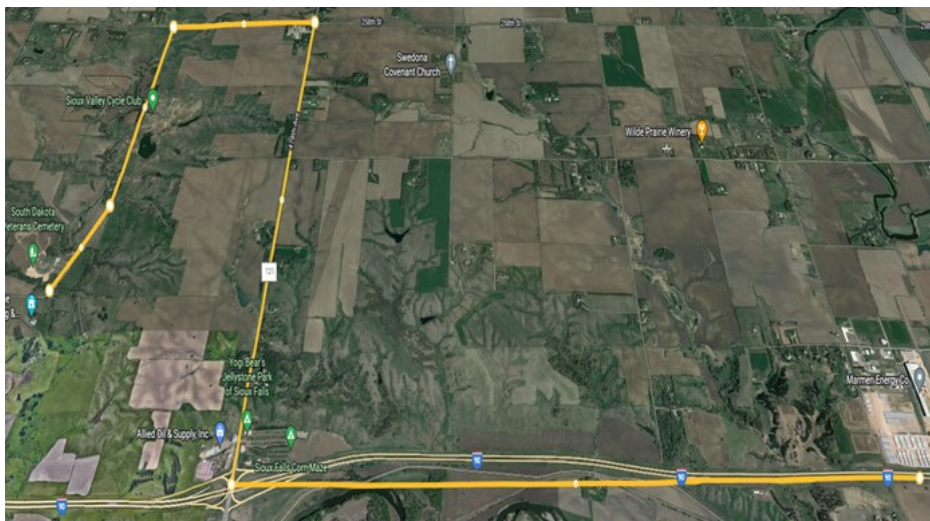


# CONSTRUCTION TO START ON ROAD LEADING TO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY

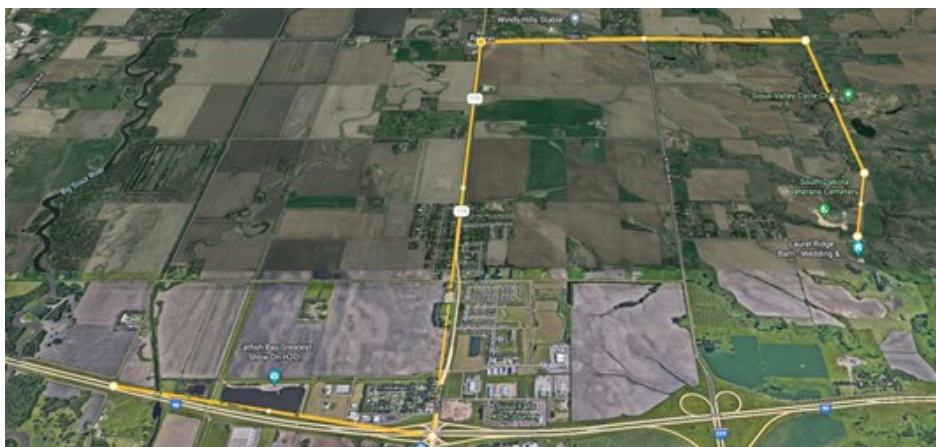
During the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs received funding to pave the road leading to the state veterans cemetery from the south. The road will improve access to the cemetery.

During construction, all traffic going to the cemetery will need to access the cemetery entrance from the north coming off 258<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Work will be starting next week and the targeted date for completion of the road project is the end of November 2022.



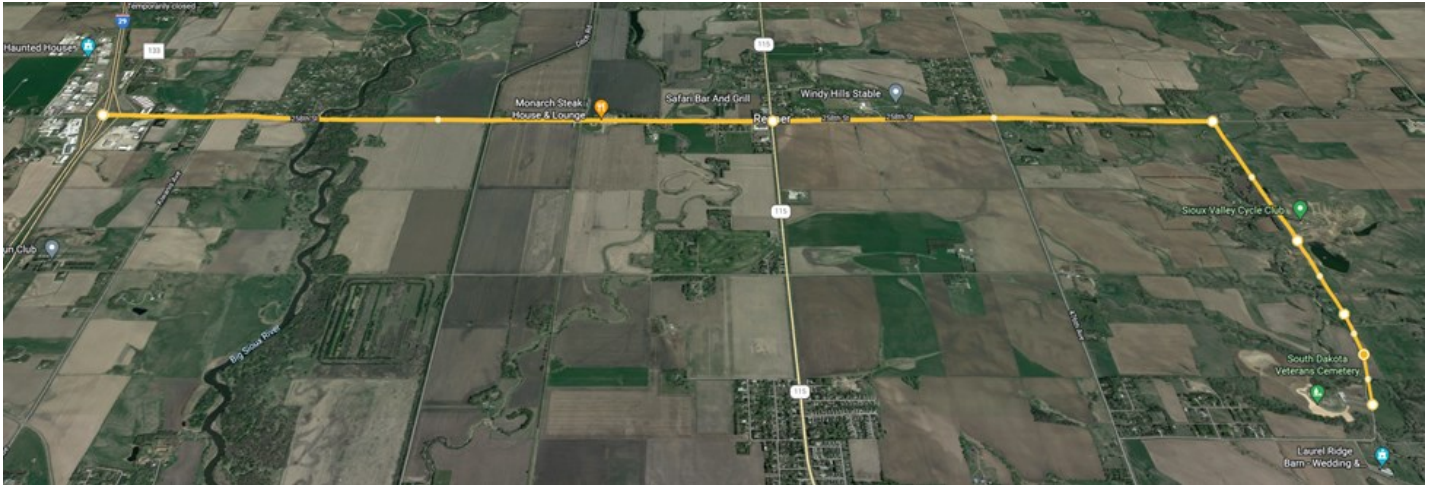
To access the cemetery during construction when traveling I-90 Westbound: Take exit 402. At the intersection turn right (north). Travel northbound reaching 258<sup>th</sup> St. Turn left (west). Traveling westbound, turn left at 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. (South). Follow 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.



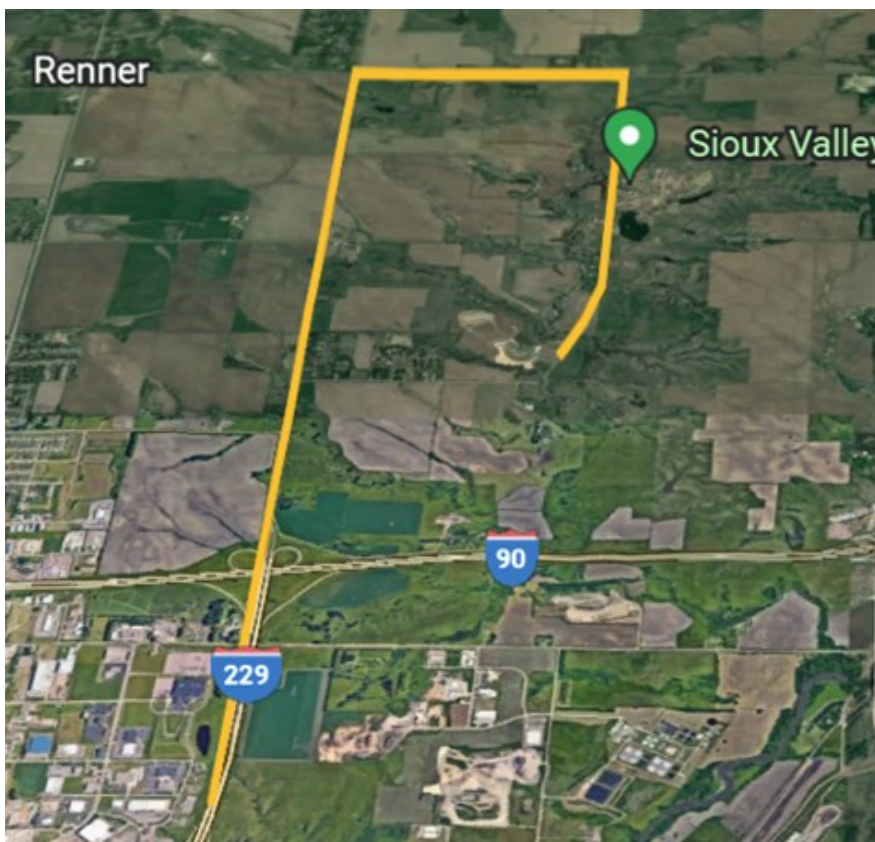
To access the cemetery during construction when traveling I-90 eastbound: Take exit 399. Stay left. Travel northbound on Cliff Ave. to 258<sup>th</sup> St. At the intersection turn right (east) on 258<sup>th</sup> St. Traveling eastbound turn right at 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. (South). Follow 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.



# CEMETERY ROAD (CONTINUED)



To access the cemetery during construction when traveling northbound or southbound on I-29: Take exit 86. Travel eastbound on 258<sup>th</sup> St. Traveling eastbound turn right at 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. (South). Follow 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.

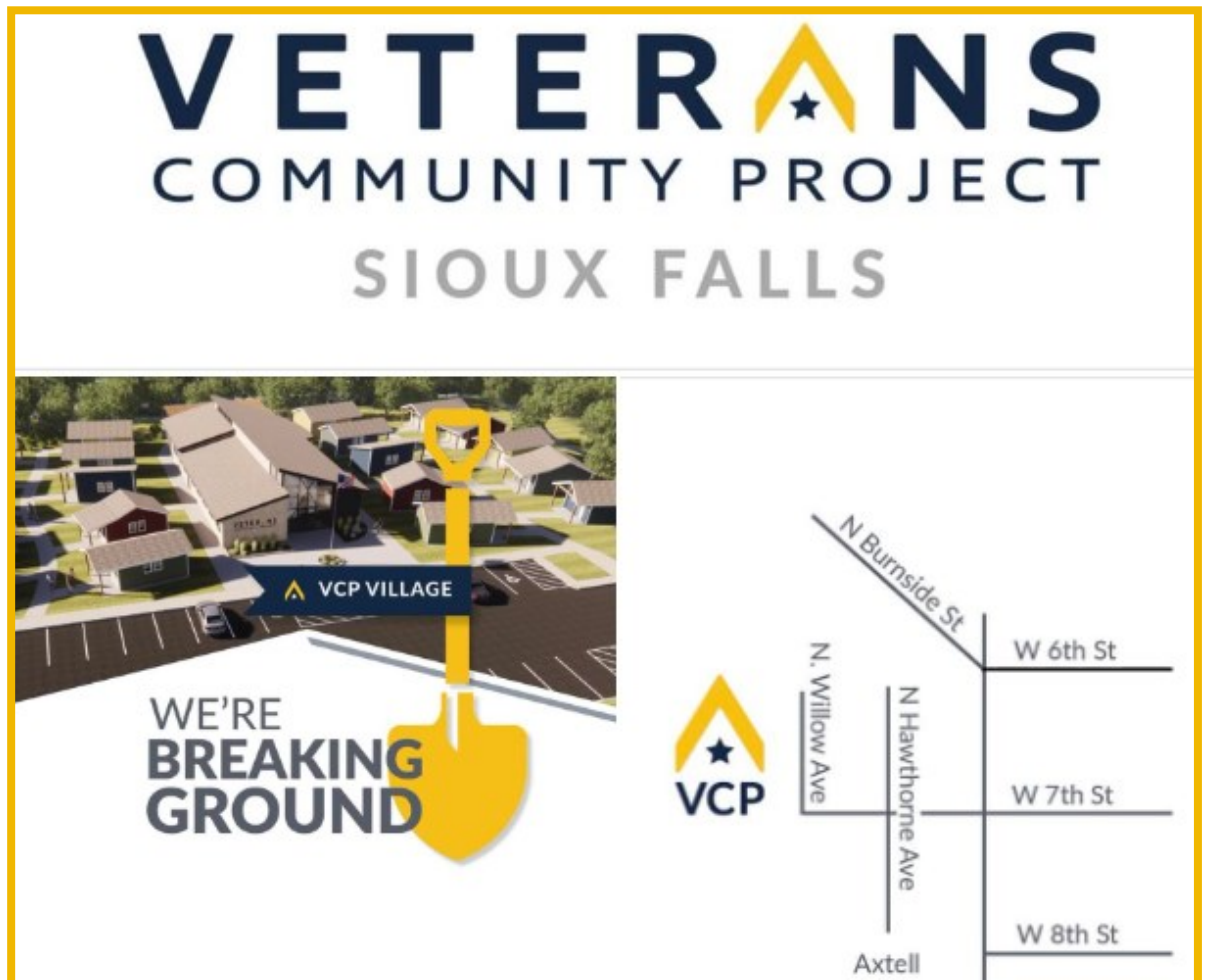


To access the cemetery during construction when traveling I-229 northbound: Continue north on I-229 until it ends and Jim Zweep Highway begins. Follow Jim Zweep Highway to 258<sup>th</sup> St. Turn right (east). Follow 258<sup>th</sup> St. until you reach 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. Turn right at 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. (South). Follow 477<sup>th</sup> Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.

# SIoux FALLS TO BREAK GROUND FOR VETERANS COMMUNITY PROJECT

Thursday, June 30th, Sioux Falls community leaders and veterans will break ground for the Veterans Community Project.

Located on a two-acre property in northwest Sioux Falls, VCP Village is a specialized community of 25 tiny homes with on-site, wraparound support services designed to equip veterans experiencing homelessness with the tools needed to return to a stable, prosperous, independent life.



The groundbreaking will be held June 30, at 11:30 am (CT) at 376 N. Willow Avenue in Sioux Falls.



# MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT HONOR RIDE

Over 100 people participated in the 2nd annual Midwest Honor Flight honor ride on Sunday, June 12, in Sioux Falls. Over \$3,000 was raised in support of Midwest Honor Flight missions.

The poker run started at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, then traveled by the Sioux Falls Medical Center, and concluded at a ceremony at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery.



The ceremony at the cemetery included a salute to veterans, a flag folding demonstration and a time of reflection.

SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock and SDVC Director Erin Brown were on hand for the ceremony.

# **SOUTH DAKOTA TO DEDICATE FALLEN HERO BRIDGES**

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting four fallen hero state bridge dedication ceremonies in June and July.

The ceremony for SGT Richard Maynard and PFC Frederick Farlee will be Saturday, June 25, at 10:30 a.m. (MT) at Pioneer Hall in Dupree (600 Juniper Street).

Maynard enlisted in the U.S. Army and began his Vietnam tour of duty on April 27, 1968. On March 20, 1969, he was killed in action in South Vietnam, Quan Tin province. The South Dakota HWY 65 Bridge over the Moreau River, 12.8 miles south of SD 20, will be dedicated in his honor.

Farlee enlisted in the U.S. Army on August 29, 1944, and left for overseas in January of 1945 serving with the 291<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 75<sup>th</sup> Division in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was seriously wounded in action near Datelinn, Germany on April 2, 1945, and died of those injuries on April 18, 1945. The Little Bear Creek Bridge on US HWY 212, 1.5 miles west of Lantry, will be dedicated in his honor.

The ceremony for Cpl John Hutchison will be Friday, July 1, at 10:30 a.m. (CT) at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center Museum in Fort Pierre (210 Verendrye Drive).

Hutchison, an aerial gunner of a CH-46 helicopter, was participating in a troop extraction mission in South Vietnam, Quang Tri province. As the helicopter approached the landing zone, bombardment of the area by enemy artillery commenced. Hutchison died August 19, 1968, when his aircraft crashed to the ground after it was hit by a very large caliber artillery shell. The White River Bridge on SD HWY 183, south of Presho, will be dedicated in his honor.

The ceremony for PFC David Gatton will be Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. (CT) at the Capitol Lake Visitor's Center in Pierre.

Gatton, whose home of entry was Harrold, enlisted in the U.S. Army and began his Vietnam tour of duty on September 11, 1966. His squad was in an ambush position on a road crossing near Phuoc Vinh when their patrol contacted a large enemy company. During the engagement on December 29, 1966, Gatton was fatally wounded by mortar fragments. The White River Bridge on US HWY 83, south of Murdo will be dedicated in his honor.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Whitlock. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen gives us an opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect—for honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life."



# MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT ADDS THREE MORE MISSIONS FOR 2022



Midwest Honor Flight has announced that they will be flying three times this fall!

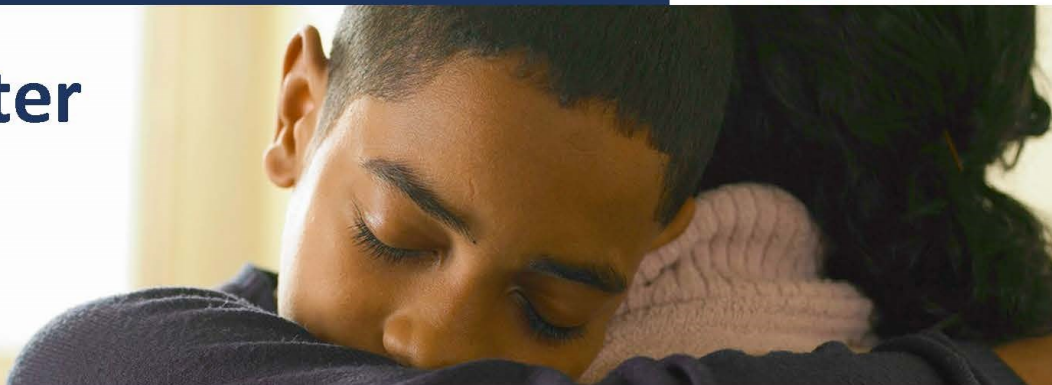
Learn more information about these missions and how to register by visiting:

<https://www.midwesthonorflight.org>





# Coping After Violent Events



**Log in to the Military OneSource Member Connect website for resources to help cope after violence and trauma. Here are a few to check out.**

## Articles

After a Violent Event: How to Help Yourself  
Caring for Our Communities  
Coping After a Traumatic Event  
Help for Survivors in the Aftermath of Disasters and Mass Violence  
Look to Your Culture to Cope With Trauma  
Media Coverage of Traumatic Events: Stay Informed, but Limit Exposure  
Nurturing Hope  
Reacting to Traumatic Events  
Recognizing and Responding to a Hate Crime

## For Parents

Helping Your Child Cope With Ongoing Fears  
Helping Youth Cope With Violence and Trauma  
Talking to Your Child About School Violence  
Talking With Children About Violence  
Tips for Parents on Media Coverage of Violent Events

## Videos

Talking With Kids About Tragedy

## Handbook

Coping After a Violent Event

## External Resources

Coping Tips for Traumatic Events and Disasters  
Helping Your Children Manage Distress in the Aftermath of a Shooting  
Tips for Survivors: Coping With Grief After Community Violence

## More Articles

Community Violence  
How to Stay Safe During Civil Unrest: A Few Tips  
Social Media and Disasters

**Need more support?  
Consider talking to a Military OneSource  
non-medical counselor or health and wellness coach.  
Call us any time at 800-342-9647.**



# PRUE FALLEN HERO BRIDGE DEDICATION POSTPONED

The July 5, 2022, Fallen Hero State Bridge Naming Ceremony, scheduled to be held in Mission, to honor U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Robert Prue is being postponed due to a family emergency.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 16-19—State American Legion Conference—Watertown  
Jun 18—Midwest Honor Flight 3rd Reunion—Sioux Falls Convention Center—11:00 am (CT)  
Jun 19—Father's Day  
Jun 25—Lake County Abate Poker Run for Midwest Honor Flight  
Jun 20—State Offices Closed  
Jun 22—PVA Annual Chapter Picnic—PVA Headquarters—(209 North Garfield Avenue)—Sioux Falls—11:45 am (CT)  
Jun 25—PFC Farlee Frederick and SGT Richard Maynard Bridge Dedications—Pioneer Hall—Dupree—10:30 am (MT)  
Jun 29-Jul 4—Parkston's Celebration of Freedom—City Park—Parkston  
Jun 30—Veterans Community Project Groundbreaking (376 N. Willow Avenue)—Sioux Falls—11:30 am (CT)  
Jul 1—Cpl John Hutchison Bridge Dedication—Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center—Fort Pierre—10:30 am (CT)  
Jul 4—Independence Day  
Jul 9—Sioux Falls Canaries Military Night  
Jul 11—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)  
Jul 16—PFC David Gatton Bridge Dedication—Capitol Lake Visitors Center—Pierre—1:00 pm (CT)  
Jul 18-23—National Veterans Golden Age Games—Sioux Falls  
Jul 20—SD Veterans Council Meeting—Watertown—9:00 am (CT)  
Aug 6-9—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL  
Aug 13—James Haider Bridge Dedication—BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center—Watertown—10:30 am (CT)  
Aug 14-19—Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention—Rapid City  
Aug 15-17—SDDVA Annual CTVSO Benefit School  
Aug 18-23—USS Iowa Veterans Association Reunion—Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center—Rapid City

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 20—PVT August Otto Bridge Dedication—Claire City Community Hall—11:00 am (CT)  
Aug 22—The Barrel House Day of Giving fundraiser for Midwest Honor Flight—Sioux Falls  
Aug 27—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 11 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—  
9:30 pm (CT)  
Sep 1—Veterans Day at the South Dakota State Fair  
Sep 1-5—South Dakota State Fair  
Sep 3—727th/DAV Poker Run—Swiftel Center (824 32nd Avenue)—Brookings—10:00 am (CT)  
Sep 5—Labor Day  
Sep 10—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 12 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—  
9:30 pm (CT)  
Sep 10—Heroes Helping with Horsepower Military Appreciation Event—W. Main Street—Ethan—Festivities begin  
at 8:00 am (CT)  
Sep 14-17—Black Hills Veterans March  
Sep 17—CPL Martin Fluegel Bridge Dedication—McCook Central High School—Salem—1:00 pm (CT)  
Oct 1—PVT Frederic Schroeder Bridge Dedication—VFW—Madison—1:00 pm (CT)  
Oct 1—Midwest Honor Flight Mission 13 Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center Arena—  
9:30 pm (CT)  
Oct 3—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—(20901 Pleasant Valley Dr)—Sturgis—9:00 am (MT)  
Oct 10—Native American Day  
Oct 15—Midwest Honor Flight Fifth Annual Hangar Dance—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell  
Street)—Sioux Falls—7:00 pm (CT)  
Oct 21—PVA Dueling Pianos Fundraiser—SD Military Heritage Alliance—(1600 W. Russell Street)—Sioux Falls—  
7:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 5—We've Got Your Six Veterans Appreciation Fair—Sturgis Community Center—(1401 Lazelle Street)—  
Sturgis—11:00 am—2:00 pm (MT)  
Nov 11—Veterans Day  
Nov 11—Capt Tommy Callies Bridge Dedication—Howard High School—9:30 am (CT)  
Nov 11—S2 Wayne Bridge Bridge Dedication—Wagner High School—2:00 pm (CT)  
Nov 24—Thanksgiving Day  
Dec 6—Governor's Budget Address  
Dec 17—Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony at South Dakota Veterans Cemetery—Sioux Falls—  
11:00 am (CT)  
Dec 25—Christmas  
Jan 10—Governor's State of the State Address

Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <https://military.sd.gov/>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

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